shells for B&W picture tubes per annum to 2 million. This involved additional investment of over Rs. 18 crores with a foreign exchange component of Rs. 12.82 crores. The performance of the unit with regard to capacity utilisation, cost of production and market realisation on account of the finished bulbs has been reviewed from time to time and it is concluded that break even point at current prices is 65 per cent of existing capacity. As such the unit is viable even at the existing annual capacity of 1 million glass shells. However, due to technical difficulties in the production process, production till now has been below the break even level. It has, therefore, been decided that this is not an opportune moment to undertake the heavy investment required for the expansion of glass shell facility at the Taloja unit.

Testing/Certification of Electronics items for Export

2365. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given license to three Indian Laboratories to test and certify electronic products manufactured in India for export to foreign markets;

(b) if so, the details of the concerned laboratories; and

(c) whether Government's step would make the country self-sufficient in the matter of certification of electronic goods for export to international markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) to (c) Three Indian Laboratories viz. Electronics Regional Test Laboratories located at Delhi, Calcutta and Bombay set up under the Department of Electronics have been authorised by International Electro-technical Commission for Quality Assessment of Electronic Components (IECQ), Geneva as Independent Test Laboratories (ITLs) which can test and certify electronic components for export to 24 Member-Countries including USA, USSR, Japan, South Korea, FRG, UK and other European countries.

The international accreditation of Indian Laboratories pertains presently only to export of Eectronic components from the quality point of view. This is a significant step towards self-sufficiency in India's capability to certify electronic products. In adition to this, attempts are on to qualify these laboratories for International Safety Certification (IECEE) and Electromagnetic Interference/ Electromagnetic Compatability (EMI/EMC) Certification (FCC/VDE). Once these International accreditations viz. Safety & EMI/EMC are obtained, eectronic products manufactured in India would find an easy access to international markets.

Air pollution in some areas of Bombay

2366. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that large parts of Chembur, Ghatkopar, Vikhroli and the surrounding areas in Bombay are heavily affected by air pollution;

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to reduce the air Pollution;

(c) whether Government are aware of the sources of pollution in these areas; and

(d) what acton is being taken against those who are causing the air pollution in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) The ambient air quality is being regularly monitored in Bombay. The results show that ambient air quality is within limits prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board.

(b) to (d) Government are aware of the sources of pollution in the industrial areas of Bombay and its surroundings. Under the Air (Prevention and Control

of Pollution) Act, 1981, conditional consents are granted to industries with a time bound programme for compliance. Industries are directed to carry out monitoring of emisions from their chimneys at prescribed frequencies and also monitor ambient air quality in and around their plant. Ambient air quality and stack emission checks are carried out at regular intervals by the Bombay Municipal Corporation and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. Under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules 1989, emission standards for smoke and carbonmonoxide are being implemented from 1-3-90. Clean fuel is encouraged in Bombay, furnace oil and coal is discouraged as fuel. Legal action, against defaulting industries under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 Water (Prevntion and Control of Pollutoin) Act, 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act 1986 is being taken.

Maximum age limit for IAS, allied services and other competitive examinations

2367. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that maximum age limit for IAS and Allied Services examinations has been raised to 28 years;

(b) whether the Government have also raised the age for other competitive examinations;

(c) if the answer to (b) be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to raise the age limit for Group 'C' and 'D' posts from 25 years to 30 years; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c) Recruitment to the I.A.S. and Allied Services is made through the Civil Services Examination. The upper age limit for recruitment through the Civil Services Examination, 1990 has been raised from 26 to 31 years in respect of general candidates. From 1991 examination onwards it will be 28 years. A similar decision has been taken in respect of the Indian Forest Service Examination also.

(d) and (e) Age limits for appointments to various posts are fixed keeping in view the nature of duties and requirement of educational qualification etc. There is no proposal to raise the age limit for recruitment to Group 'C' & 'D' posts.

Ordnance Factory in Bihar

2368. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no Ordnance Factory in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to establish an Ordnance Factory in the State; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Thre is no proposal at present under consideration to set up an Ordnance Factory.

(c) Decision regarding establishment of an Ordnance Factory is taken on the basis of strategic considerations and requirements.

Protection of Gibbon Species

2369. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gibbon has recently been sighted in the Simplipal National Park;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to protect this rare ape species?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA